Now thrive the armourers, and honour's thought
Reigns solely in the breast of every man:
They sell the pasture now to buy the horse;
Following the mirror of all Christian kings,
With winged heels, as English Mercuries.
For now sits Expectation in the air:
And hides a sword, from hilts unto the point,
With crowns imperial, crowns, and coronets[5],
Promis'd to Harry, and his followers.
The French, advis'd by good intelligence
Of this most dreadful preparation,
Shake in their fear ; and with pale policy
Seek to divert the English purposes,
O England!—model to thy inward greatness,
Like little body with a mighty heart,—
What might'st thou do, that honour would thee do,

taken in transposing this Chorus, [to the end of the first scene of the second Act.] and Mr. Theobald in concluding the [first] Act with it. The Chorus evidently introduces that which follows, not comments on that which precedes, and therefore rather begins than ends the Act; and so I have printed it. JOHNSON.

5 For now sits Expectation in the air:
And hides a sword, from hilts unto the point,
With crowns imperial, &c.] The imagery is wonderfully fine, and the thought exquisite. *Expectation sitting in the air* designs the height of their ambition; and the *sword hid from the hilt to the point 'with crowns and coronets,* that all sentiments of danger were lost in the thoughts of glory. WARBURTON.

The idea is taken from the ancient representation of trophies in tapestry or painting. Among these it is very common to see swords encircled with naval or mural crowns. *Expectation* is likewise personified by Milton, Paradise Lost, book vi.;

«----while *Expectation* stood
to In horror—." STEEVENS.

In the Horse Armoury in the Tower of London, Edward III. is represented with two crowns on his sword, alluding to the two kingdoms, France and England, of both of which he was crowned heir. Perhaps the poet took the thought from a similar representation. TOLLET.

This image, it has been observed by Mr. Henley,

is borrowed from a wooden cut in the first edition of Holinshed's Chronicle.

MALONE.